

KEEC Summer Board Meeting, July 27-28, 2010

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

The meeting took place at Shaker Village at Harrodsburg, Kentucky. Members present were Horace Brown, Evelyn Morgan, Cheryl Messenger, Allen Branscum, and Marcus Norton. Staff present were Jane Eller, Elizabeth Schmitz, Michelle Nevels, and Merin Roseman. Absent board members for Tuesday evening's meeting were Greg Higdon, Jim Funk, and Tom FitzGerald. Robert Roquemore was not present either days.

Mr. Brown, Chair for KEEC, opened the meeting by informing the board that there will be upcoming board appointments in October 2010 for Mrs. Messenger, Mr. Norton, and Mr. Branscum. Mr. Brown continued the meeting by requesting the board to approve the preceding meeting minutes; however, there was considerable discussion regarding the starting salary for Elizabeth Schmitz, the new director chosen to replace Jane Eller's position at the Kentucky Environmental Education Council. Several board members indicated Mrs. Schmitz salary should be higher than what was agreed at the preceding meeting, while other members indicated Mrs. Schmitz had agreed to the salary of \$55,000 per year so the board should maintain their decision of \$55,000 annually. At this time, Mr. Brown suggested to wait to approve the starting salary amount on the following day when more board members would be present for the second day of the extended board meeting. Members were in agreement at this time to wait until Wednesday to approve the salary amount, and Evelyn Morgan motioned to approve the preceding meeting minutes and Marcus Norton seconded the motion. At that time, Mr. Brown suggested to continue with the next item on the meeting agenda.

Budget

Michelle Nevels presented the budget information. Expenditures for the Kentucky Environmental Education Council stayed within the budgeted allocations for fiscal year 2010. The agency carried forward additional funds into fiscal year 2011 as of July 1, 2010. Revenues received as of July 21, 2010 are \$150,000.00 for Environmental Civil Penalties and \$40,859.00 from the KY Pride Fund Interest. At this time the agency has not been reimbursed any ARRA expenditures. The interest from the KY Pride Fund transfer is significantly lower than anticipated in budget planning; however, the agency has been taking steps to reduce expenditures and carry forward a larger amount at the end of the fiscal year to manage the reduced amount received from the KY Pride Fund account. Pending contracts as of July 21, 2010 are a \$15,000 grant to Northern Kentucky University and \$25,500 Personal Service Contract to Kentucky Association of Environmental Educators. The agency has paid \$7,283.00 as of July 21, 2010 for staff salaries and benefits, \$210.00 for subscriptions, and \$490.00 for travel.

Green & Healthy Schools

Ms. Roseman delivered the quarterly report for the position of the Green & Healthy Schools. The program has 129 schools enrolled. Eight schools are in process of enrolling. Kentucky has one LEED certified Green & Healthy School. She reported the total amount spent to date for the program is \$3,213.35. Most of the expenditure amount is to pay for the awards ceremony. \$1,398.26 has been

awarded to the schools at this time. Ms. Roseman continued to report that the new website is now active for viewing. They are still completing work for the data base. She indicated she will be completing a training session in Morgan county Kentucky in the next couple of months for Green & Healthy Schools. Ideas were stated to request Commissioner Holiday to send out emails to principals regarding Green & Healthy Schools for recruitment. Mrs. Roseman will also conduct meetings at each of the state's educational cooperatives. KSB Association hired energy managers who may take packets for Green & Healthy Schools to the schools they visit. Mrs. Roseman is also looking for sponsorship opportunities for the award's ceremony. She has created a solicitation letter to distribute to possible sponsors. Ms. Roseman's future plans for KGHS are recruit more school interest by attending several upcoming conferences and conduct regional meetings in person. There are still additional grants to award.

Retrospective

At this time, Jane Eller presented a power point presentation to deliver a brief account of work she has completed for the agency through the years and her work in progress. Ms. Eller has directed the beginnings of EE Certification, EE teaching endorsement programs, youth environmental summits, KUPPEE, EE non-formal certification, various water projects, three master plans, three knowledge surveys, various EE curricula, four websites, KET productions, participated at state and national level as representative of KEEC. She secured numerous funding opportunities while she worked for KEEC. She is currently working on a \$37,000 grant with the EPA partnering with the James Agee Film Institute. She has worked on all of the council mandates (Master plan, subcommittees, EE centers, Competitive System Awards, researched funding initiatives, integrated environmental education with school curricula, monitored/ reported national and global EE trends, and made recommendations). She has also worked to increase water and solid waste education. Ms. Eller indicated the EE centers at the universities could increase their activities. Mrs. Schmitz posed a question for funding: Will states loose funding if they are not in compliance with common standards? The majority of the board indicated that they thought this was likely and indicated that the science standards are more inclusive of evolution at this time. Mr. Norton suggested that park naturalists could implement EE in their programs. Ms. Eller indicated that Questing could be used as a tool in this situation; however, it is struggling and the agency will need to decide if they wish to maintain it. She suggested a brochure could be available at the parks for the public.

At this time, the meeting was adjourned and would continue the next day Wednesday, July 28, 2010.

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

Board members in attendance were Horace Brown, Evelyn Morgan, Cheryl Messenger, Allan Branscum, Marcus Norton, Tom Fitz Gerald, and Greg Higdon. Staff present were Jane Eller, Elizabeth Schmitz, and Michelle Nevels.

The 2nd day of the board meeting opened with a Climate Change Activity presented by Elizabeth Schmitz. After the activity, Mr. Fitz Gerald presented Bioblitzing to the meeting participants. He suggested that he could create a template for Bioblitzing for the public or for schools by spring of 2011 and is looking for additional funding. His students will conduct a considerable amount of the research for the project. Mr. Brown indicated this is related to NCLI and the agency possibly could use some carry forward money to fund it. Ms. Morgan suggested for Mr. Fitz Gerald to utilize National Public Lands Day for Bioblitzing next year since the deadline is past for the current year. Also, James Agee could be contacted since he used to teach about biodiversity. They considered the idea a good avenue for potential tourism in Kentucky.

The board addressed the issue regarding Mrs. Schmitz' starting salary again. Mrs. Schmitz was not present during this discussion. After everyone's points were stated and considered, the board agreed to hire Mrs. Elizabeth Schmitz salary at \$60,000 per year. Mr. Fitz Gerald motioned to approve the decision and Mr. Higdon seconded the motion.

Master Plan Priorities and How to Get There

Goal 3: Advocate for Getting Children Outside

The agency has worked with various agencies and created many programs which encourage people to get outside themselves or to take their children outside. Examples of these include, Public Health Departments, Wolf Creek, Parks (Questing), KMA Physicians, Prescriptions for the Outdoors, Pledge Porch time with family, etc. One controlling issue with this goal is the fear of injury or kidnapping. Several countries are implementing laws to deal with these concerns; for example England is considering "Safe Enough" laws to have children outdoors.

Goal 4: No Child Left Inside Literacy Plan

NCLI will get people outside more also. Kentucky Department of Education will have to create an environmental literacy plan which is due in the spring of 2011. There is an plan to hire an EE consultant in KY Department of Education. Encyclomedia was suggested as a tool to use in this planning, also.

Goal 5: Work Toward more Environmental Content in State Standards (Statewide EE Curriculum)

Kentucky needs a specific curriculum. Perhaps we could use an existing curriculum and modify as needed. Toolkits could be created to distribute to the schools.

Goal 6: Green Schools

This is a highly developed program currently. The grantor requires to see its progress. Ms. Roseman will travel to obtain data which may be submitted into a living document available online or hard copy that includes quantitative results. Mr. Higdon could possibly obtain some information he uses with Kentucky small businesses and energy saving auditors and share with the agency for this. Also, KDE is highly interested in any information that shows how to keep students healthy and increase attendance. Another idea submitted was to have students from net 0 schools present to school boards. Mr. Higdon

and Mr. Fitz Gerald said they would research about Ms. K Stein's Senate Bill USGB Council and connections to this and will report back to the group.

Goal 11: Inventory of Family-focused Programs

Agency is beginning to assess what is available for families. They will then use this list to see what is available for families. They may also use Survey Monkey to collect data.

Goal 12: PR Campaign to Raise Awareness of Importance of EE

Suggestions to accomplish this goal were as follows: post videos on u-tube, submit article to Kentucky Goods (Greg Higdon), homeowner's inventories, social marketing, EE focus groups, partner with universities for capstone projects, and create service learning opportunities. They suggested that training could be planned at the conference for interested individuals to teach people how to be safe outside.

Goal 13: KAEE/KEEC Collaboration to Train Providers on the best Practices for Implementing EE Programs

Goal 15 and Goal 16: Expanding the use of Social Media

These goals are good for the youth. Suggestion was to make U-Tube videos linked to Facebook.

The group decided to prioritize the recommendations. They were prioritized and combined in the following way:

Priority 1—Combine 3 and 4

Priority 2 – Goal 5

Priority 3—Goal 6

With the aforementioned all being said and no new business addressed, Mr. Brown motioned to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Fitz Gerald approved the motion and Mr. Branscum 2nd the approval to adjourn.